Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a lot of tension is prevailing between Delhi Administration and Central Government in regard to three environmentalists sent by Central Pollution Control Board to Delhi Pollution Control Committee on deputation basis;

(b) whether Delhi Administration while taking the Environmentalists in this Committee, had requested the Cenrtal Board to depute them for three years and the Central Board had given full assurance to cooperate in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that consequent upon calling back these three Environmentalists from Delhi Pollution Control Committee by the Central Board, the work of the Committee as well as the actions initiated so far in this regard are likely to come to a halt; and

(d) if not, what is the clear cut approach of Government in regard to pollution control and what does it propose to do in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Only three environmental engineers were deputed initially for 6 month.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The approach of the Government is given in its Policy Statement for Abatement of Pollution which seeks integration of environmental and economic aspects in development planning; lays stress on the prevention aspects of pollution abatement, promotion of technological inputs for reducing the industrial pollutants and increasing reliance on public cooperation in securing a clean environment.

Cleaning of the Ganga Water

171. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even after six years of taking up cleaning operations, the Ganga water is not yet fit for drinking at some places;

(b) the places where it is still the most polluted; and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the progress achieved so far is as per the target fixed;

(d) if not, what are the constraints in the cleaning operations; and

(e) the steps contemplated to expedite the cleaning operations of the Ganga?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The objective of the Ganga Action Plan is to reduce pollution in the river Ganga and improve its water quality to the bathing class.

(b) The Ganga water satisfies the norms in terms of dissolved oxygen and bio-chemical oxygen demand prescribed by the Central Pollution Control Board except at Kanpur where the flow in the river is critically low during lean season and schemes for treatment of sewage of South Kanpur were not taken up in the First Phase.

(c) and (d) Most of the schemes under the Ganga Action Plan will be completed by 31st March' 94. However, a few schemes are likely to spill over beyond this date due to delay and difficulty in acquisition of land court cases and poor response to tenders etc.

(e) Every effort is being made to complete the on-going schemes expeditiously. The progress of implementation of schemes is being continuously monitored at various levels in the Central and State Governments.